

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-11 ISO-00 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 EB-07 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04

TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 FEAE-00 OMB-01

SAM-01 EURE-00 /104 W

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P R 141723Z JAN 76

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE PRIORITY 290

INFO USDEL MTN GENEVA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE EC BRUSSELS 00364

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EEC, MTN

SUBJECT: TROPICAL PRODUCTS: EC OFFER

REF:(A) 75 MTN GENEVA 201, (B) 75 MTN GENEVA 184

1. PHAN VAN PHI HAS CONFIRMED TO US THAT THE EUROPEAN REPORT DESCRIPTION OF THE EC COMMISSION'S TROPICAL PRODUCTS PROPOSAL (REF B) IS GENERALLY ACCURATE. HE QUIBBLES ONLY OVER THE STATEMENT THAT THE COMMISSION PROPOSES THE "ABOLITION" OF EX-CISE TAXES; THE CORRECT PHRASE IS "PHASING OUT". (WE PROTECTED TRANN (SEE REF A) BY NOT REFERRING TO HIS CONVERSATION WITH GENEVA. PHAN VAN PHI, UNLIKE TRAN, DID NOT VOLUNTEER DETAILS NOT IN THE EUROPEAN REPORT ARTICLE.)

2. GERMAN PERMREP OFFICIALS TOLD US TODAY AT LUNCH THAT THE FRG WILL NOT AGREE TO DROP ITS INTERNAL TAX ON COFFEE BECAUSE OF THE REVENUE LOSS (1.2 BILLION U/A) INVOLVED. THE FRG HAS NO OBJECTION, HOWEVER, TO THE TARIFF ASPECTS OF THE

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COMMISSION'S PROPOSALS.

3. PHAN VAN PHI SAYS THE COMMISSION'S HOPE IS TO GET COUNCIL OF MINISTERS APPROVAL OF ITS TROPICAL PRODUCTS PROPOSALS SOMETIME IN FEBRUARY, BUT THE TIMING, AS WELL AS THE CONTENT OF THE PROPOSALS DEPEND ON THE EXAMINATION BY MEMBER STATES CURRENTLY IN PROGRESS, AS IN THE ART. 113 COMMITTEE. THIS POSES THE QUESTION OF WHAT CAN BE SAID BY THE EC SIDE AT THE JAN. 22 SOAMES-DENT DISCUSSIONS. PHAN VAN PHI SEES THE VALUE FOR THE EC IN EXCHANGING VIEWS COMPARING NOTES, AND EVEN CO-ORDINATING TO SOME DEGREE WITH THE OTHER MAIN INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES. HOWEVER, THIS CAN REALLY ONLY BE DONE WHEN THE COMMUNITY HAS REACHED A DEFINED POSITION-- AND THIS WILL NOT BE THE CASE ON JAN. 22. HE DRAWS THE CONCLUSION THAT AT BEST THE COMMISSION CAN DESCRIBE ITS PROPOSALS THEN, LEAVING A MORE DEFINITE INTERCHANGE FOR A LATER MEETING SOMETIME IN FEBRUARY.

4. PHAN VAN PHI ALSO NOTED THAT WHILE THERE HAVE BEEN SOME PREVIOUS EC-US EXCHANGES ON THIS SUBJECT-- HE REFERRED PARTICULARLY TO THE MEETINGS IN WASHINGTON IN NOVEMBER--THE EXCHANGES HAVE BEEN VERY GENERAL, AND HE HAS NO CLEAR IDEA FROM THEM OF THE SPECIFICS OF WHAT THE US MAY PROPOSE.
GREENWALD

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